

Matrimonial.

There is no doubt that the woman who loves you forgives you too much, while the woman whom you love forgives you too little.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A man in earnest finds means or, if he cannot find, creates them.—Channing.

Lead Pencil Wood.

The cedar used in the manufacture of pencils in this country is that which grows in Florida, the common red cedar with shreddy bark and aromatic heartwood. The wood is shipped from Florida in small slabs, a little longer than a pencil, a little wider than four or six pencils placed side by side and of proper thickness.

The cedar case of a pencil is made in halves, each half being equally channeled, so that the place where they join comes against the center of the lead.

First we have the slab of wood as it is shipped from Florida. This slab is passed under a rotary cutter, which planes the surface perfectly flat and smooth and at the same time grooves it to receive six leads. These leads are now laid in the grooves of one of these slabs, and another slab, similarly planed and grooved, is spread with glue and laid upon it. The two thus put together are placed in a press and when perfectly dry are taken out and passed twice under a grooved rotary cutter, first on one side, rounding one half of the pencil, and then on the other, finishing the rounding of the whole pencil and separating one from the other at the same time.

These single pencils are then passed through other machines which polish, varnish, stamp and put them in cases, ready for delivery to the trade.

The School of Experience.

"Daughter, you ought not to wear those high heeled shoes. They will make corns on your feet."

"How do you know, mamma?"

"By experience. I used to wear them when I was a girl."

"Did grandma tell you they would make corns on your feet if you wore them?"

"Yes."

"How did she know?"

"She found out by experience, just as I did."

"Haden't she any mamma to warn her against wearing them?"

"Oh, yes."

"But she wore them just the same?"

"To be sure."

"And you did too?"

"Yes. That is what I was telling you."

"Well, if I ever have any daughters I ought to be able to give them a warning against high heeled shoes from my own experience, oughtn't I?"—Chicago Tribune.

Such Fun.

"So you are really engaged, dear?" said Elsie gushingly to her particular friend Madge.

"Yes, dear," was the blushing reply. "I am really engaged at last."

"And to that stern, stolid looking fellow, Alec Wilson?"

"Oh, yes, dear," replied her friend quickly. "He often says that after we are married he means to manage the house, look after my personal expenditure as well as his own and, in fact, have his own way in everything."

"Good gracious! And you seriously tell me you mean to marry a man like that?" cried Elsie in astonishment.

"Oh, yes, dear. I wouldn't give up the idea on any account. You see, it will be such fun to show him how absurd such ideas are, won't it?" And the speaker smiled a wicked smile, which the happy Alec ought to have seen, but luckily didn't.

The Beverage of Paraguay.

Mate, the national beverage of Paraguay, is brewed from the dried leaves of the Ilex and does not intoxicate. Mate can be drunk hot or cold, it can be taken with cream and sugar, like tea or coffee, and it can be used "straight," which seems by far the best way of drinking it. Plain mate is quite bitter, and, like beer, it is an acquired taste. The first sip gives a distinctly bitter taste, and the drinker sets down his glass with a wry face. Presently, as soon as the bitter effect wears off, the imbibor has a pleasant recollection of the sensation. By this time the powerful stimulating property of the drink has begun to work and the drinker feels like taking another sip. Mate makes the user of it "feel good," makes him look with a brighter eye on the dark side of life, makes him forget his troubles for the moment, and, best of all, unlike beer, it makes him feel like working or doing something with his brain or his hands instead of loafing or gossiping.

Chemists who have carefully analyzed mate say that it is perfectly harmless. It has only the smallest percentage of caffeine and volatile oils, and it never leaves a bad after effect. Even when the drinker has a disordered stomach or bad nerves the consumption of mate is not followed by unpleasant feelings.

Geographical Taffy.

"What town is this?" asked the eminent statesman, who was making a political tour of the provinces.

"Ionia," they told him.

The eminent statesman stepped out to the rear platform of the gorgeous private car in which he was traveling.

"My countrymen," he said impressively to the cheering throng at the station, "your beautiful and thriving young city has a rare distinction. Independently of its commerce and manufactures, independently of its charming location, independently, I may add, of the stalwart men and fair women who inhabit it, so many of whom I see before me, not forgetting these bright and winsome young children who are also here, the hope and mainstay of the republic—independently, I say, of all these, your lovely city!"

Here he became truly eloquent. His eyes flashed, his voice rang out in clarion tones, and he shook his clinched fist at the zenith.

"—has the rare distinction of bearing a name that has only five letters and yet has four syllables!"

The applause as the train moved away was simply deafening.—Chicago Tribune.

The Painter and the Dealer.

Mr. Spielmann, the art critic, told the following story of Morland, the painter, who was popular enough to have his work forged in his lifetime: "A dealer, unknown to him, employed Morland to paint so many pictures, provided him with a studio free in an upper floor of his (the dealer's) house and begged that he would not trouble to paint for longer than the morning. The terms were good, and the artist, who was more than ever in want of money, readily agreed. But what Morland did not know was that as soon as he had left, on and from the very first day the dealer introduced some six hack copyists into the room with similar canvases to reproduce exactly what the painter had done in the morning, and in the evening all traces of the incursion were removed. Each day until the completion of the picture the process was continued, and thus at the end of the engagement the dealer not only possessed the original pictures, but six copies of each, produced stage by stage in the same way as Morland's own. This, perhaps, accounts for some of the best copies extant."

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